

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 181225 TOSEC 190014

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DRAFTED BY NEA - MR. ATHERTON (FOR THE SECRETARY)
APPROVED BY S/S-O:ORMACFARLANE
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA FLASH
INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 181225 TOSEC 190014

NODIS
FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AEMR US LE

SUBJECT:BEIRUT EVACUATION

REF: STATE 180856 TOSEC 190001

1. THIS MESSAGE REPLACES THAT CONTAINED IN REFTEL.
2. YOU SHOULD CONVEY TO PRINCE FAHD IMMEDIATELY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ME.
3. QUOTE: YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS:

I KNOW THAT AMBASSADOR PORTER HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH YOU TO SEEK YOUR ASSISTANCE IN OUR EFFORTS TO EVACUATE OUR CITIZENS FROM BEIRUT, AND I VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THE HELP THAT YOU HAVE ALREADY GIVEN US IN THIS MATTER. I AM WRITING TO YOU PERSONALLY, IN THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND MUTUAL INTERESTS WHICH WE SHARE, BECAUSE OF MY DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN THIS SITUATION.

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AT NOON ON JULY 21 OUR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT INFORMED THE PLO

REPRESENTATIVE THAT WE WISHED TO PROCEED TO RESCHEDULE THE ROAD CONVOY WHICH HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED AND ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION THAT THE CONVOY COULD TRAVEL TO DAMASCUS ON JULY 24. LATER THAT DAY THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE REPLIED THAT SATURDAY WAS NOT A GOOD DAY BECAUSE OF THE GENERALLY UNSTABLE SECURITY SITUATION IN BEIRUT AND ELSEWHERE. IN DISCUSSING THE PARTICULARS OF THE SECURITY SITUATION, THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE CITED SUCH MATTERS AS PRESIDENT ASSAD'S RECENT SPEECH WHICH HE CALLED UNHELPFUL, THE FAILURE OF THE TRUCE AT TEL ZATAAR AND THE UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDING THE PLO DELEGATION WHICH HAS DEPARTED FOR DAMASCUS FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SYRIANS.

YOUR HIGHNESS WILL APPRECIATE THAT THIS REPLY FROM THE PLO MAKES IT CLEAR THAT AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE BEING HELD HOST-AGE TO THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN LEBANON. I KNOW YOU WILL ALSO APPRECIATE THAT WE CANNOT ACCEPT BEING PUT IN THIS POSITION AND THAT, IF EARLY ARRANGEMENTS ARE NOT MADE FOR THE SAFE EVACUATION OF OUR CITIZENS, A DANGEROUS SITUATION WILL RESULT. WE ARE PREPARED TO FOLLOW WHATEVER MEANS ARE MOST PRACTICAL TO GET OUR CITIZENS OUT OF LEBANON, WHETHER BY LAND OR BY SEA, AS WAS DONE PREVIOUSLY.

I AM CERTAIN THAT, IF YOUR HIGHNESS WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH THE PLO LEADERSHIP AND IMPRESS UPON THEM IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THE IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATING IN THE EVACUATION OF OUR CITIZENS FROM BEIRUT, THIS WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT EFFECT IN ACHIEVING A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME.

WITH WARM PERSONAL REGARDS. END QUOTE. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, INSTRUCTIONS, EMERGENCY EVACUATION, CITIZEN PROTECTION, POLITICAL STABILITY, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, FOREIGN INT EREST REPRESENTATION, HOSTAGES, CAT-C
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE181225
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MR. ATHERTON (FOR THE SECRETARY)
Enclosure: TOSEC 190014
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P840093-1497
From: STATE SS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760731/aaaabbim.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a <GWR 20040428 handling is nodis>; n/a, NODIS <GWR 20040503 handling nodis>; NODIS
Reference: 76 STATE 180856
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <20 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> GWR 20040428; <DBA CHANGED> GWR 20040503
Subject: BEIRUT EVACUATION
TAGS: PFOR, PEPR, AEMR, PSDC, LE, US, SA, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (FAHD, PRINCE),
To: JIDDA SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006